



2031135

09 September 2004

Mr. Jim Christensen
Remedial Project Manager
U.S. EPA Region VIII
EPR-SR
999 18TH St. Suite 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

2004 SEP 13 PM 1:25
EPA REGION VIII
SUPERFUND BRANCH

Dean H. O'Brien
(Note: previous correspondence in the name of
Dean H. Costlow)
610 Dakota Ave.
Libby, MT. 59923

Dear Mr. Christensen,

In your most recent correspondence to me nearly 2 years ago, you stated I would be notified regarding the placement of my property on the "removal schedule" to clean up the asbestos present under my home and on my property. Mr. Duc Nguyen identified the presence of vermiculite on 12/4/02. A structural engineer, John Hamm (CDM) evaluated the condition and made recommendations on 6/26/03.

To date I have not received any further information or indication as to when this issue will be corrected.

Once again we are about to begin the winter season. My issues remain the same - I cannot repair the faulty plumbing under my house which presents health risks to myself, my son and my wife Rebecca. The foundation under my home is cracked and continues to settle, causing yet more damage.

I am anxious to hear from you regarding when I can expect this to be resolved.

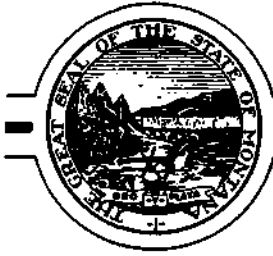
Please see attached response from Senator Conrad Burns; Micheal Spence, MD-Chief Medical Officer-State of Montana re: this issue. I have contacted other elected officials, health officials and EPA representatives as I am very concerned about our health and wellbeing and would like timely resolution.

||| Please contact me regarding the plans and time line to resolve this ~~issue~~ matter so that I can plan for home repairs. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Dean H. O'Brien

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



JUDY MARTZ
GOVERNOR

GAIL GRAY, Ed.D.
DIRECTOR

STATE OF MONTANA

Dean H. Costlow
610 Dakota Avenue
Libby, Montana 59923

June 24, 2004

Dear Mr. Costlow,

I am writing in response to your letter of June 18, 2004 when you expressed a concern about asbestos exposure for you and your family. I have also read the letter that you wrote to the Western News in October of last year. There is no doubt that if you had continued to expose yourself and your family to the vermiculite there is the potential for harm. However, since the vermiculite was identified early and you have ended the exposure the risk for you or your family is most likely very small to non-existent. Although there are no guarantees in life and no one can say for certain that the risk to you and your family is zero, based on the information that you have provided me, it is my medical opinion that you and your family can get on with your life and put this behind you. I must say however that it is still important to be sure that you and your family do not expose yourselves to the vermiculite on your property. I want to encourage you to seal off access to the contaminated soil so that your child and others do not have contact with it until it can be removed. If you have further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mike Spence", is written over the typed name.

Michael R. Spence, MD, MPH
Chief Medical Officer

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2603
(202) 224-2644

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BUDGET
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION
ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES
SMALL BUSINESS

August 16, 2004

Mr. Dean Costlow
610 Dakota
Libby, MT 59923-2246

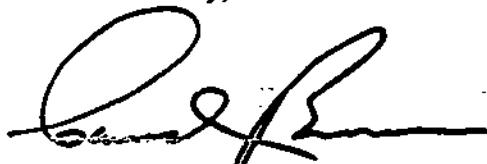
Dear Dean:

Thank you for contacting me and sharing your experience with exposure to asbestos in Libby. I appreciate hearing from you on this very important matter.

Dean, I read the letter to the editor you submitted to your local paper, and have contacted the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on your behalf. For real estate sales, disclosure is the responsibility of the seller. The EPA works closely with area realtors to provide sampling results and cleanup status if it is requested. The EPA has also screened approximately 3500 properties in Libby, and these results are available to homeowners, but individual results were not sent to homeowners. If you would like more information, I recommend you contact Jim Christiansen with the EPA to determine the best course of action for you and your family. He may be reached via email at christiansen.jim@epa.gov or by phone at (303) 312-6748.

Thank you for sharing your concerns with me, and I encourage you to contact me again about this or any other issue.

Sincerely,



Conrad Burns
United States Senator

CRB:hrs